

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2327-1

WHEREAS, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Every year, hundreds of thousands of American families become homeless, including more than 4.2 million children, 700,000 of which are unaccompanied minors according to the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, there were about 5.9 million students enrolled in public school in the 2022-23 school year according to the California Department of Education;

WHEREAS, the number of students who experience homelessness increased by nine percent to a total 187,000 youth or just above three percent. This is an increase from last year which reported just under three percent. This increase can be justified by the investment in accurate reporting which has been prioritized and utilized more effectively; and

WHEREAS, in January 2023, the United Way of the National Capital Area identified San Jose, California as having the highest population of Gen-Z youth experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, youth and children experiencing homelessness are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; and

WHEREAS, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act further defines youth and children experiencing homelessness as those who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

WHEREAS, the population of youth experiencing homelessness also includes unaccompanied youth who have left home for one or more nights without permission; youth who have been kicked out of their homes, are abandoned, deserted, or prevented from returning home; and systems youth who have either aged out of foster care or have been released from juvenile justice or other public systems with nowhere to go; and

WHEREAS, due to the varying definitions of homelessness and the difficulty in capturing accurate data, the county statistics do not necessarily reflect the numbers caught in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has established programs to best assist schools and school districts in capturing accurate data and helping in the alignment of services to serve students and their families best; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE continues to help students experiencing homelessness through Foster & Homeless Services (FHY) by providing assistance and training to local education agencies (LEAs) that help connect school districts and community partners as well as keep them abreast on educational law that protects youth who are in foster care and experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, FHY also collaborates with group home providers, the juvenile justice system, and the Department of Family and Children's Services Prevention Bureau, as well as other agencies and organizations that are dedicated to working with youth who are in foster care and experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the *Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit* continues to be available on the SCCOE website as a comprehensive tool with helpful information for increasing educational access and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is committed to improving student equity and access to high-quality education for youth experiencing homelessness and who are in foster care through the FHY continued liaison support to districts, schools, students, and communities; as well as being a premier service organization; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on October 18, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

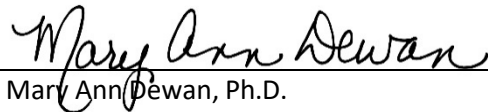
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools